



**NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY
ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET**

Student: **Michael Higley-Vance**

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED IN

Follow these procedures: If requested by your instructor, please include an assignment cover sheet. This will become the first page of your assignment. In addition, your assignment header should include your last name, first initial, course code, dash, and assignment number. This should be left justified, with the page number right justified. For example:

DoeJXXX0000-1

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Save a copy of your assignments: You may need to re-submit an assignment at your instructor's request. Make sure you save your files in accessible location.

Academic integrity: All work submitted in each course must be your own original work. This includes all assignments, exams, term papers, and other projects required by your instructor. Knowingly submitting another person's work as your own, without properly citing the source of the work, is considered plagiarism. This will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the work submitted or for the entire course. It may also result in academic dismissal from the University.

EL7004-8

Dr. Alexandru Spatariu

The Online Learner

**Activity #8: Reflection Essay: Signature
Assignment**

Comments: See full site link here → <http://e-learninghigley.wikispaces.com/EL7004-8-8> for main task Part I of assignment. See below for Part II, the Reflection Essay.

Faculty Use Only

<Faculty comments here>

Both goanimate video and reflection look good! I have no particular comments at this point. Keep up the good work! Attached is the originality report, there are no notable issues.

Alex Spatariu 21 content 9 writing 3/31/2014

<Faculty Name>

<Grade Earned>

<Writing Score>

<Date Graded>

Reflection Essay: Signature Assignment

Michael Higley

Northcentral University

Reflection Essay: Signature Assignment

The Student Success Tutorial, representing part one of this assignment is found online at <http://e-learninghigley.wikispaces.com/EL7004-8-8> and consists of (a) a tutorial for new and prospective online students (b) an mock online student application, and (c) a mock payment form for students wanting to sign up for available 6-8 grade courses. The links and resources provided can be found on my EL7004-8-8 assignment page, and a link to the *e-LearningHigley* home page.

Student Success Tutorial Reflection

From chalkboards to handheld devices and wireless technology; from traditional classrooms with multiple grade levels, to learning in isolation and connecting across the world – teaching and learning continues to impact education through technology in insurmountable ways (Berge, 2008; Sadykova & Dautermann, 2009; Vesisenaho et al., 2010). Today's students have been readily exposed to learning experiences using technology and are able to participate in a true e-learning experience. Because of these positive learning experiences students are typically unaffected by poor habits, most often formed from years of traditional classroom lectures and presentations (Axelson, 2007). Others can be found struggling to make the transition to online learning having already formed habits unsuited for the online learning environment. In either case learning online requires an understanding for how learning is different from the traditional classroom experience and recognizing key-learning characteristics best suited for the online learning environment. This paper attempts to reflect on the process and technology used to identify these two points.

Inclusion Rationale

I chose four elements to include in the student success tutorial. These four elements include (a) new student orientation information, (b) information about e-learning technology and resources, (c) the role of online learners, and (d) the role of online instructors. To be successful in an online learning environment the learner needs a diverse set of learning techniques and best practices (Axelson, 2007; Vesisenaho et al., 2010). These techniques, characteristics, and best practices are included in the tutorial and wiki page link above.

Potential and current online learners must be introduced to helpful resource links, environment and course expectations, and the technical skills, necessary for them to have a good possibility of student success (Sadykova & Dautermann, 2009; Lawson, 2010; Vesisenaho et al., 2010). Due to these needs a student orientation tutorial prior to any course beginning is a must. In the *e-Learning -vs- Traditional Learning* section of the tutorial factors addressing the difference between the two environments are presented. Additionally, the importance of having specific learning characteristics and an attitude for learning online is shared immediately after. Each of these learner characteristics is essential for success online and must be included within a student orientation guide or tutorial.

There are diverse technologies and resources that can be utilized to optimize learning in online. In the section entitled *Navigating the Learning Environment* several key components were shared to make learners aware of the technology, resources, and tools necessary to (a) navigate the virtual learning space, (b) complete assignments, and (c) participate in discussions in a timely manner. Synchronous learning technologies allow for real-time interaction between

the learner and instructor (Lawson, 2010). The information shared included the importance of tutorials, learning examples, communication resources, and an online library for research and writing help. New learners may be unfamiliar with assignment or course expectations and find it challenging to complete the expected performance outcomes without this information. Providing learners with the information necessary to research, interact, and ultimately complete assignments is always in the best interest of the learners and their instructors (Axelson, 2007; Sadykova & Dautermann, 2009; Lawson, 2010; Vesisenaho et al., 2010).

Reflection on Tutorial Design

I have worked with designing tutorials using Goanimate.com, Google docs, and Wiki's prior to this exercise. I first determined the content I should include in the tutorial based on the assignment expectations, created the main wiki page outline, and began creating the Goanimate scenes. Much of the content for the tutorial was already created using previous assignments, but organizing the information and then representing it through Goanimate scenes proved to be a challenge. I wanted the scenes to flow and make sense however, I also wanted the experience to be fun and engaging. The volume of information was also somewhat problematic because creating an online tutorial using pre-animated scenes proves to be lengthy. I also wanted to include direct links within the tutorial but this proved to be impossible given the site and account limitations. In order to include the other resources I created, like the online application and payment form, I needed to embed the tutorial and other resources within a wiki page. This helped the tutorial and the additional resources stand out and user friendly.

Why is this Format Effective?

I chose to use a Wiki page, an animation site, and Google docs for this assignment for several reasons. Presenting a large amount of information and research is much easier for me

when I can apply what I have learned on the web. With the proper use of the wiki page, Google forms, Goanimate, and appropriate hyperlinks to access different sections of material, important information is presented and immediately accessible. The web allows for immediate access to this information by large numbers of potential or current learners. In addition, the web permits immediate adjustments of new material as it is found or created. The wiki page presents critical information that learners need to prepare for an online learning experience. The site is easy to navigate, and easy to understand. Finally, presenting an online student tutorial using the information and technology resources shown in this signature assignment is engaging and informative. I am very pleased with the result.

References

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